National Agricultural Summary

June 26 - July 2, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

Below-normal temperatures slowed crop development in the Corn Belt and Great Plains, but most crops remained about 1 week ahead of the normal for this date. Rain continued to ease moisture shortages in the western Corn Belt, while moisture surpluses persisted in the eastern Corn Belt. Seasonal temperatures and widespread showers boosted crop conditions in the Southeast, but moisture shortages remained in many areas. The winter wheat harvest rapidly advanced in the Great Plains, although rain hindered progress in parts of the southern Plains. Hot weather stimulated crop growth, and dry weather aided fieldwork in the Pacific Coast States.

Corn: Nine percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, about 1 week ahead of last year and the 5-year average for this date. Development was most advanced in the southern Great Plains, Southeast, and along the Ohio River Valley in the southern Corn Belt. Two-thirds of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage in Texas. In North Carolina and Tennessee, over half of the crop was at or beyond the silking stage. Just under 50 percent was silking in Missouri and Kentucky, far ahead of the 5-year average in both States. Rain improved crop conditions in the western Corn Belt, while excess moisture and cool weather stressed fields in the eastern Corn Belt. In Colorado, light showers and below-normal temperatures temporarily relieved crop stress due to moisture shortages.

Soybeans: Nineteen percent of the crop was blooming, ahead of last year's early pace and 1 week ahead of the 5-year average. Seasonal temperatures promoted development in the lower Mississippi Valley, as soybeans blooming advanced to 61 percent in Mississippi and 45 in Louisiana. Below-normal temperatures hindered development in the Corn Belt, but fields in bloom progressed 20 or more percentage points in Iowa and Kansas. Elsewhere in the Corn Belt, soybeans blooming advanced between 10 and 20 percentage points in Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Ohio. Conditions deteriorated in the eastern Corn Belt due to below-normal temperatures and saturated soils. In the western Corn Belt, rain eased moisture shortages and improved crop conditions.

Winter Wheat: Harvest progressed to 65 percent complete, more than 1 week ahead of last year and the 5-year average. In Kansas and Nebraska, winter wheat fields were 94 and 52 percent harvested, far ahead of the 44 and 5 percent averages for this date, respectively. Progress also accelerated in Colorado. In the Corn Belt, progress was aided by mostly dry weather. Harvest more than doubled in Illinois and Indiana, to 71 and 47 percent, respectively. The harvest pace gained momentum in Ohio. Dry weather also aided progress in California.

Small grains: Spring wheat and barley were 62 and 54 percent headed, respectively. Both crops were developing about 1 week ahead of last year, when 44 percent of spring wheat and 38 percent of barley were headed. Normally, 40 percent of spring wheat and 37 percent of barley would be heading by this date. In Minnesota, 30 percent of spring wheat and 33 percent of barley entered the heading stage, despite cooler-than-normal weather. Conditions of both crops significantly improved in Minnesota, as surplus moisture supplies diminished. In Montana, conditions deteriorated for both crops due to increasing moisture shortages. Seventy-nine percent of oats were headed, 12 percentage points ahead of last year and 19 percentage points ahead of the average for this date. Nearly all oats were headed in the Corn Belt, while development rapidly progressed in the upper Mississippi Valley and northern Great Plains. Nearly half of the acreage was headed in North Dakota, more than double the average for this date. Mostly adequate moisture supplies aided development in Minnesota, while moisture shortages stressed many fields in Nebraska.

Cotton: Seventy-three percent of cotton acreage was at or beyond the squaring stage, ahead of last year's 62-percent pace and the 5-year average of 63 percent. Acreage setting bolls progressed to 17 percent, slightly ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Development was aided by seasonal temperatures in the southern Great Plains, Mississippi Delta, and Southeast. Crop development was most advanced in Arizona, Louisiana, and Mississippi, where acreage setting bolls was more than 30 percent. Conditions improved in the Southeast due to widespread, but mostly light showers. Hot weather promoted rapid development in California.

Rice: Seventeen percent of crop was headed, ahead of last year's 14 percent progress and 7 percentage points ahead of normal. Progress was aided by seasonal temperatures in Texas, where over half of the acreage was heading, compared with the average of 33 percent. In Louisiana, heading progress also remained well ahead of normal, even though development slowed. Development was slightly ahead of normal in Arkansas, but remained slightly behind normal in Mississippi. Hot weather accelerated development in California.

Other crops: Sorghum was 17 percent headed, equal to last year's development, but behind the 20-percent average for this date. Development was most advanced in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. Thirty-four percent of peanuts were pegging, slightly behind last year's pace. Rain improved conditions in the Southeast and southern Great Plains.